

Scrambled rather quickly

Questions - should we
set up session with Panel
and their office chiefs?
if so, should we include
Gordon Stewart?

if not, are we ready to
talk to Gordon or
should we try to
talk to any other people
first?

Mr. C. wanted
this in draft
w/ copies.

llc
2/25/71

~~SECRET~~

DD/S 71-0580

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Youth Forum - "The Agency and American Youth" Panel

25X1 1. We do not have a verbatim record of this portion of the two-day
25X1 Youth Forum. We have consulted with the Directors of Training, Security
and Medical Services and the Panel chairman [] and panel
member [] We have also talked with other members of our staff
and with Mr. [] who were present.

2. We have developed a range of view on the substance and the
significance of this panel session. Our opinions include the following points:

a. The subject to be covered by the panel was not
sufficiently clearly delineated.

b. ^{THE} A panel's spokesman did not gain audience acceptance
of the panel's desire to talk about "youth" in the age bracket
(early 20's) which had been established by Dr. [] and other
earlier speakers.

c. The panel's presentation was too pat and self-serving
to the Agency - probably too defensive.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

d. The panel was surprised by the type of questions and assertions and elected to adjust to deal with those actually posed as if they were ~~not~~ proper to this session rather than indicating clearly which were outside the proper scope of the panel's segment of the integrated two day forum program. For example, the panel accepted and dealt with the first question which was a blast on fitness reports as if it were proper to this panel's subject.

e. The panel members conducted themselves maturely and sensibly despite some sharp needling by members of the audience including some of the students.

f. The challenging statements and questions were seemingly posed by DD/I personnel including some known to disagree in substantive terms with policies of their Directorate, the Agency and the Administration.

g. The challengers in the audience went to this session not necessarily to deal with the announced subject but to give vent to whatever "anti" feelings they harbored. We have been unsuccessful

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

in identifying problems raised by members of this audience except the one on fitness reporting and possibly a factual one concerning East Coast universities students attitudes toward the Agency. There were apparently inferences or assertions of problems without specifications.

h. The panel did not successfully handle the question of recruitment at Eastern universities, i. e. , did not show that we are deliberately looking for graduate level students rather than undergraduates and also that although we may not be going on campus undergraduate students at these schools are talking to our recruiters off campus.

i. We checked but could find no evidence that any member of the MAG was in the auditorium during this panel meeting. Apparently also there was considerable lack of knowledge of MAG. Perhaps we should be publicizing it and perhaps we should also consider making it an action unit if it is decided to pursue the worries listed by audience members at another panel session.

j. It is also suggested that the panel meet again with students in the course.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

3. We have some additional discussing to do within the Directorate. Some senior officers believe that we should create additional opportunities for the venting of feelings partially on the theory that it is not necessarily what is said but the important thing is that we allow things to be said. It has been suggested, for example, that we might have CT classes of past years hold "reunions" at which senior Agency management officials might appear. Other senior Support personnel believe that we should not hold additional sessions at which the relatively few challengers might be able to again hold forth. In this connection it has been noted that if we had problems of any magnitude with our young people the auditorium should have been jammed for all sessions but especially for this Panel period. It has been suggested that we might arrange for the few most outspoken audience members to meet separately with the three Panel members to try and talk out what each was attempting to establish during the larger session on 11 February.

4. On balance we do not believe that this session was a disaster and we are inclined to believe that the fact that it was held is a plus rather than a minus ^{but} and we are not now prepared to suggest additional such meetings be constituted.

SECRET